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San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

December 3, 2024

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1 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Okay. We now  
2 move to Item 10, which his to adopt an ordinance  
3 calling for a special election to be held March  
4 4, 2025 for the purpose of voting an amendment to  
5 the San Mateo County Charter granting the board  
6 of supervisors the authority until December 31,  
7 2028 to remove an elected sheriff for cause by a  
8 four-fifths vote of supervisors. This is brought  
9 forward by Supervisors Mueller and Corzo. Do you  
10 have any comments?

14 JOHN NIBBELIN: What I'd note is the --  
15 we've received correspondence from counsel that  
16 indicate that the sheriff has requested separate  
17 counsel. The board hasn't yet acted on that  
18 matter. I guess that's what I would say.

19 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Okay. Well,  
20 to the extent the sheriff -- I mean, the sheriff  
21 is indicating she has counsel, the last time she  
22 appeared before this board she indicated that she  
23 would consider testifying before the board once  
24 she had counsel. We made that request to her  
25 when she was here and she said as she was going

1 out the door she refused obviously to participate  
2 in the investigation when it was taking place,  
3 the independent investigation.

4 So I would like to once again invite  
5 her, now that she's represented by counsel -- at  
6 least we've seen correspondence purported to  
7 saying that she's represented by counsel, to  
8 please provide testimony to this board.

9 And then the second thing I wanted to  
10 talk about is last night we received a letter  
11 from the sheriff, and I have some real concerns  
12 about the letter. Because the letter -- one of  
13 the -- what gave rise to all of this is really,  
14 just to sort of summarize it in the beginning,  
15 was the way -- the complaints we had from  
16 employees about how they were being treated  
17 within the department.

18 So much so now that it's risen to the  
19 level that all of the sworn union personnel have  
20 voted and are unanimous. They're calling for her  
21 to resign. The captains have called for her to  
22 resign. The only sworn personnel in the office  
23 who's still supporting her on record is the  
24 second undersheriff she's had.

25 In that backdrop, last night the

1 sheriff sent us a letter and said -- and she was  
2 questioning against the voracity of the texts  
3 that it's been said -- alleged came from her  
4 phone and that -- or we've had forensically  
5 looked at. And she said in her sentence, "Would  
6 the county have hired a company to trace a text  
7 to my phone that one former employee claims came  
8 from me?"

9                   And the problem I have with that  
10 sentence is that Witness 3 is not a former  
11 employee. Witness 3 still works for the County  
12 of San Mateo in the sheriff's department. And so  
13 I don't know, as I sit here today, is the sheriff  
14 saying that she intends to fire Witness 3 now?  
15 Why is she referring to her as a former employee?  
16 And that has given me great pause that we still  
17 are in a circumstance where the sheriff is  
18 communicating about people who haven't taken part  
19 of this investigation and is either talking about  
20 the future or giving a threat.

21                   I don't know what this means that she  
22 refers to her that was a former when she is not  
23 or they are not. And we know the witness knows  
24 who -- the sheriff knows who this person is  
25 because the sheriff and Mr. Aellne has referred

1 to about this -- who -- this witness in news  
2 interviews. So I'm -- I am really taken aback by  
3 that. And it's in that context today that we're  
4 really moving forward to protect the employees of  
5 this county.

6 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Supervisor  
7 Corzo.

8 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you. So I  
9 wanted to just kind of take a step back and share  
10 that typically when we have these kinds of  
11 resolutions or, you know, proposals, the second  
12 reading can go on the consent agenda and we don't  
13 need to have a public forum unless it's pulled by  
14 a member of the public. But we put this on the  
15 agenda because we recognize that there are a lot  
16 of questions about why this is happening, why  
17 now.

18 You know, there are questions about the  
19 report, so I want to take the chance to address  
20 some of those concerns proactively and again  
21 restate that this board is, has been, and will  
22 continue to be committed to transparency,  
23 accountability, and doing what it is in the best  
24 interest of the public good.

25 So I'd like to set the record straight

1 on a few misconceptions that I've heard in the  
2 community specifically about the report. And I  
3 want to make sure people understand that this is  
4 an independent human resources investigation. As  
5 someone who served for many years on a school  
6 board, I have seen many of these kinds of  
7 investigations done, and I want to be really  
8 clear that these are not popularity contests.  
9 These are not meant to be a platform for anyone  
10 being investigated, for anyone to have their  
11 cheerleaders give character references.

12 These kinds of investigations are done  
13 to investigate serious allegations and then make  
14 determinations based on credibility and facts  
15 about whether these kinds of allegations are  
16 sustained, unfounded, or even inconclusive. And  
17 through the years, I have seen many of these  
18 kinds of reports determine that there wasn't  
19 enough evidence to determine whether something  
20 was sustained or unfounded.

21 And even, you know, as a board member,  
22 as a school board member I've seen these kinds of  
23 investigations come back as inconclusive when  
24 personally I thought that the allegations were  
25 credible and that the complainants were credible.

1 But that's not the case here.

2 I have never in my seven years as an  
3 elected official seen an investigation, first of  
4 all, that has 15 allegations that are being  
5 investigated. I want people to understand how  
6 rare that is. That is not normal. And I think  
7 it speaks to the level of severity of what is  
8 happening in our sheriff's office. Twelve of the  
9 fifteen allegations were sustained.

10 And I also want to explain to the  
11 public that these kinds of investigations are not  
12 necessarily required to be done by a former judge  
13 like we had in this report. This -- you know,  
14 reputable independent investigators do not have  
15 to be former judges. They are not courtrooms.  
16 They are not required or even is it normal to  
17 have complainants, you know, under oath because  
18 they're not courtrooms. So I want people to  
19 understand that.

20 I also want to say that, you know, if  
21 this matter does make it into a court of law, I  
22 am really confident that anyone who lies under  
23 oath can and will face consequences for not  
24 telling the truth. And in this case, I believe  
25 that is our sheriff. She has used many tactics

1 that are greatly questionable. You know, tactics  
2 that we see around delaying, denying, deflecting  
3 loudly publicly in front of the cameras.

4 And I -- because someone is loud does  
5 not make them righteous or does not make them  
6 truthful. And I want the community to know that.  
7 We have many civil employees, most of who are  
8 women -- all of whom are women, the complainants,  
9 in the report who were interviewed. And they are  
10 not represented by a union. They are not  
11 represented or protected by unions, and they are  
12 extremely vulnerable to this day because of the  
13 conditions that they have had to work under.

14 Earlier today we saw many, many of our  
15 county employees being celebrated, being  
16 respected for their work, and we have those kinds  
17 of employees in the sheriff's office who just  
18 because of the mere like willpower they have for  
19 their families, for our community have endured  
20 treatment that no one should have to work under.

21 So I want to take a second now to also  
22 address some other questions that I've heard in  
23 the community. Does this charter amendment being  
24 placed on the ballot take away the power from the  
25 voters? And I want to be very clear, no, it does

1 not. This is going to be in front of the voters.  
2 The voters will inform themselves and they will  
3 make educated votes.

4 And why now? Because this matter  
5 continues to harm people in the sheriff's office.  
6 What we are seeing has never happened before.  
7 And we cannot delay. We can't. The people of  
8 the County of San Mateo will decide for  
9 themselves if they want to pass this charter  
10 amendment, and they will do so just like they  
11 would in any election. They will be presented  
12 with facts. They will come to their own  
13 conclusions, and it is up to the community to  
14 educate themselves, and for us as a board and us  
15 as a community to make sure that we understand  
16 really what's happening here.

17 And I've also heard, you know, that we  
18 should wait for a recall. And while a recall is  
19 the right of the voters, I want to again  
20 reiterate that a recall is really a huge lift for  
21 a community, especially a county-wide recall.  
22 For -- about 46 signatures would be required to  
23 even place something on the ballot for a recall  
24 to be put on the ballot at all.

25 And what we see here is, you know,

1 continued violations of county policy, continued  
2 harm to sheriff's office employees. And  
3 honestly, even -- I would say every county  
4 employee and every county resident is being  
5 impacted by this. This is not something that  
6 anyone would ever choose to be subjected to, but  
7 it is our responsibility as a board to offer the  
8 community solutions, and that is what we're doing  
9 here today by taking this vote.

10 One more thing I want to address. You  
11 know, is this board -- there have been questions  
12 about why this board never took any similar  
13 action for previous sheriffs. And I said this  
14 last time and I will say it again. I was not on  
15 this board for any previous decisions. I don't  
16 know the facts of any decisions that were made.  
17 That is not my responsibility. My responsibility  
18 as a county supervisor is to make decisions right  
19 now for the matters before us and that is what  
20 we're doing.

21 And I want to also just recognize that  
22 I had and I still have criticisms about former  
23 sheriffs in this county. And that is the -- a  
24 huge part of why I supported Sheriff Corpus to be  
25 our sheriff in this county. I will say again

1 that our sheriff has proven to be a sheriff that  
2 we cannot trust. And so what -- the board that  
3 we will take -- the vote that we will take will  
4 be based on facts and with a commitment to  
5 transparency, accountability, and doing what is  
6 right for the public good.

7 We cannot sit here and do nothing. And  
8 I refuse now and always to, you know, look past  
9 what I believe to be corruption. And in terms of  
10 due process, I want it to be very clear that the  
11 sheriff had an opportunity to participate in the  
12 investigation and chose not to. The sheriff has  
13 been invited by this board to come before this  
14 board to have a conversation and she has chosen  
15 not to.

16 The sheriff went in front of cameras  
17 and said that she was disappointed that I didn't  
18 speak to her. And then when I did, she shared a  
19 voicemail for the media that was, I'm sorry, not  
20 threatening at all. But I do believe that our  
21 sheriff must resign. And if she doesn't and we  
22 have to move forward with this election in March,  
23 she will be responsible for the millions of  
24 dollars that it will cost our county taxpayers to  
25 hold that special election.

1                   I will just wrap up by saying that I  
2 personally believe that this is the best option  
3 before us. We must place this on the ballot.  
4 Our sheriff needs to be held accountable. No one  
5 is above the law. No one should be above the  
6 law. And with that, I will conclude my comments  
7 and just last thing say that the will of the  
8 voters will decided what happens in our  
9 community. And that is something that I believe  
10 to my core. And we will move forward with the  
11 will of the voters. Thank you.

12                   SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Supervisor  
13 Pine, thanks.

14                   SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Supervisor  
15 Mueller.

16                   SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: So first,  
17 Supervisor Corzo, you said 46 signatures. I  
18 think you meant 46,000?

19                   SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: Yes.

20                   SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Okay. And  
21 then secondly, there is just a couple of things  
22 that I just wanted to add. There have been -- I  
23 saw a text from a news -- from a reporter I think  
24 and there's been -- it's been put out into the  
25 world that all of the -- it's somehow known that

1 all of the witnesses in the report were former  
2 Sheriff Bolanos supporters in the campaign. That  
3 is absolutely false. The reporter who did -- who  
4 put that out there should retract that.

5 Some of the people in this report,  
6 these witnesses, were some of the most -- some of  
7 Sheriff Corpus' most ardent supporters during her  
8 campaign. It's just false. I don't know. I  
9 don't know how that could even be reported.

10 Second thing that I wanted to share is  
11 with respect to the recall, and county counsel,  
12 if you could verify this, if a recall was  
13 initiated in -- hypothetically in early  
14 December, if the county were to take its full  
15 time, if the elections office were to take its  
16 full time that it's statutorily allowed to verify  
17 signatures, and if the full time was necessary to  
18 gather signatures, that may push the election  
19 date into 2026.

20 JOHN NIBBELIN: That's true. I think  
21 the earliest that a recall could feasibly take  
22 place would be November of 2025. Probably more  
23 likely it would be April of 2026.

24 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Right. So for  
25 it to take place in November of 2025,

1 hypothetically that would mean the -- all the  
2 signatures were gathered in an earlier amount of  
3 time than statutorily allowed. And also the  
4 verification of those signatures would happen  
5 faster than statutorily allowed.

6 JOHN NIBBELIN: A lot of things would  
7 have to fall into place optimally in order for a  
8 November 2025 to happen.

9 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: So I want  
10 people to understand that, that the circumstances  
11 and the working conditions that we're hearing  
12 from our employees resoundingly in the sheriff's  
13 office that exist today, absent this charter  
14 amendment process, that they would be in those  
15 working conditions possibly until 2026.

16 So you have that effect on employees  
17 that we're concerned about as supervisors. But  
18 not only that, I want everyone to think about  
19 what the effect of that is in terms of our  
20 readiness for a public safety event. What does  
21 that dysfunction mean if we were to have a major  
22 public safety event in this county during that  
23 interim time period? We can't take that risk.

24 That's how I feel about it looking at  
25 this as a supervisor today. I'm going to -- so I

1 feel like this is why we have to put this in  
2 front of the voters. Look at all of the  
3 circumstances and use your best choice. That's  
4 all we can do is prevent you -- present you with  
5 the evidence we've been presented with, share  
6 with you the concerns that we have about it, and  
7 ask you the voter what should be done.

8 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: I would just  
9 want to reiterate the points -- one point made by  
10 my colleagues, which is ultimately this will be  
11 the decision of the public whether or not to  
12 grant the board of supervisors this authority.  
13 The public will have the opportunity to assess  
14 all the facts and circumstances and consider  
15 whether this is a power it wants to grant to us.  
16 So in that regard, I think it's fair to the  
17 public. Supervisor Slocum, would you have any  
18 comment?

19 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Yes. Thank  
20 you. Thank you, Mr. Pine. Obviously this is a  
21 very difficult position that we're in. It's a  
22 difficult vote that we are about to undertake. I  
23 think it's unprecedented in the county's history.  
24 And the bottom line for me here is that I have  
25 mixed feelings about putting this on the ballot.

1                   Why do I have those mixed feelings?  
2   Well, it does lead to a campaign. And Supervisor  
3   Pine, you just said the voters will consider the  
4   facts, but I'm not so sure that that's totally  
5   accurate because I do not believe that this  
6   sheriff will fight this campaign with facts. I  
7   know that we will, but I don't believe the  
8   sheriff will.

9                   And my questions around this around,  
10   what happens if this passes? What happens if it  
11   fails? Maybe counsel could just briefly walk  
12   through that in a minute here. But for me, the  
13   recall path is probably the most appealing just  
14   on its surface. But if we're talking April of  
15   2026 or sometime soon before that, I just can't  
16   imagine being an employee working under the  
17   circumstances that have existed and that exist  
18   today.

19                   I have a concern about -- and I know  
20   there's a sunset provision for this, but I do  
21   have concerns about future boards. And as I  
22   said, even though there's a sunset, I still have  
23   that nagging feeling that it shouldn't be left to  
24   future boards. Maybe it wouldn't be given the  
25   sunset. I'm curious, and maybe somebody could

1 answer this, maybe Supervisor Mueller or Corzo,  
2 or may county executive or county attorney, I'm  
3 curious about if we're still getting  
4 whistleblower complaints or complaints from the  
5 staff in the sheriff's office.

6 I'm concerned about the lawsuits that  
7 most likely will come from this and the cost  
8 thereto. And I'm curious, finally with another  
9 question, that if the sheriff were to resign  
10 sometime between now and March, would the sheriff  
11 retain her county retirement and county benefits  
12 that she may otherwise be entitled to? So  
13 there's a few questions in there. I don't know,  
14 county attorney, if you made note of those or if  
15 you could respond.

16 JOHN NIBBELIN: Thank you, Supervisor  
17 Slocum. Maybe I'll start with what were -- what  
18 would happen if the county charter amendment were  
19 to pass. And a couple of things I wanted to note  
20 is the -- what the charter amendment states  
21 specifically is that if the board were to seek to  
22 exercise its power under the charter amendment  
23 and endeavor to remove the sheriff by a four-  
24 fifths vote, a couple of things that are  
25 specifically required to happen is one that the

1 sheriff would have to be served with a written  
2 statement of alleged grounds for removal and  
3 would have to be provided a reasonable  
4 opportunity to be heard regarding the --  
5 regarding any explanation or defense.

6 The charter amendment also provides  
7 that the board of supervisors may provide for  
8 procedures by which a removal proceeding pursuant  
9 to the charter would be conducted. So I want to  
10 anticipate that the board would have a meeting at  
11 which the board would establish procedures and  
12 that notice, written notice, a written statement  
13 of alleged grounds for removal would be provided  
14 and then there be an opportunity for a hearing at  
15 which the sheriff would have the opportunity to  
16 offer an explanation or defense. That's what the  
17 charter amendment sets forth. So that's what  
18 would happen procedurally if this charter  
19 amendment were to pass.

20 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Could I stop  
21 you there for just a moment and thank you for  
22 that thorough explanation? I'm curious, the part  
23 about the sheriff has a chance to come forward  
24 and respond. When in your best thinking might  
25 that take place assuming we approve this Item 10?

1                   JOHN NIBBELIN: Again, I anticipate  
2 that that would occur -- pursuant to the charter,  
3 that would occur at some point after the March  
4 election date, at a point after the board of  
5 supervisors has served a written statement of  
6 alleged grounds for removal. So we'd be talking  
7 about some point after the election in March.

8                   SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: And there  
9 would be -- I know this may be off base, but  
10 there would be no way to get that testimony into  
11 the record ahead of the election.

12                  JOHN NIBBELIN: Well, there's nothing  
13 that would stop that kind of a conversation from  
14 taking place if -- you know, if the parties were  
15 inclined to do that. But the -- but again, the  
16 specific process set forth in the charter  
17 contemplates written notice, then a response or  
18 an opportunity to be heard with respect to the  
19 written notice. So -- but again, nothing to stop  
20 a conversation taking place in a different -- on  
21 a different track if the parties were inclined to  
22 have that kind of a conversation.

23                  SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Yeah. My  
24 question is based on Supervisor Mueller's  
25 invitation to the sheriff that now that she has

1       counsel to come forward and appear before the  
2       board and --

3                   JOHN NIBBELIN: Right. Right.

4                   SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: -- testify.

5                   JOHN NIBBELIN: Absolutely.

6                   SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: You know,  
7       and --

8                   JOHN NIBBELIN: And nothing were  
9       talking about doing here would foreclose that  
10       happening if, again, the parties were inclined.

11                  SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Thank you.

12                  JOHN NIBBELIN: A next question were --  
13       well, one of the questions was with respect to  
14       pensions. And I do note that the fact that  
15       somebody resigns in and of itself has no impact  
16       on a person's pension. There are some  
17       provisions, you know, in law that I believe  
18       PEPRA, Public Employee Pension Reform Act, I  
19       think included some specific provisions that  
20       noted that if somebody were convicted of certain  
21       crimes while in office -- I'm not suggesting that  
22       is relevant here, but there are some provisions  
23       under PEPRA that would deprive folks of pension  
24       benefits dating from the time at which misconduct  
25       was first found to have occurred.

1                   But again, that requires a criminal  
2 conviction if I'm not misrecalling. So to go  
3 back to my primary point, there's -- resigning in  
4 and of itself has no bearing on pension benefits.

5                   SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: So just to  
6 be clear, if she resigned before the recall  
7 election, she would be entitled to her  
8 retirement, for instance, and other benefits and  
9 --

10                  JOHN NIBBELIN: To my knowledge, yeah.

11                  SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Yes. And if  
12 she -- if this ballot measure appeared and it was  
13 approved by the voters, her benefit package would  
14 be not available to her?

15                  JOHN NIBBELIN: I don't believe that's  
16 true either. I think if she was removed -- I  
17 don't think that removal in and of itself would  
18 impact her entitlement to pension benefits.

19                  SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: So she would  
20 get her benefits in either scenario. Okay.

21                  JOHN NIBBELIN: I believe that's true,  
22 yes.

23                  SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Okay. Go  
24 ahead. Thank you.

25                  JOHN NIBBELIN: I think the last

1 question's whether or not we continue to get  
2 complaints. I'm a little -- I'm hesitant to  
3 answer all that. That's at this point kind of HR  
4 related matters. So -- but -- so I frankly want  
5 to -- and I'm -- I guess that's where I'd want to  
6 leave it whether or not we're continuing to  
7 receive complaints.

8 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Supervisor  
9 Mueller?

10 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: I wanted to  
11 follow up on a question that our argument might  
12 be more of a theme that Supervisor Slocum talked  
13 about, and that was communication should we pass  
14 the charter amendment today, communication during  
15 the time period before the election. We are  
16 going to be prohibited after today -- well, from  
17 talking -- it'll be -- if we vote today, it goes  
18 on the ballot. It becomes a political issue  
19 whether or not people vote. So we won't be able  
20 to campaign for it with county resources,  
21 correct?

22 JOHN NIBBELIN: There's generally a bar  
23 under California law in using county resources,  
24 government agency resources to either support or  
25 oppose a measure that's on the ballot. So the --

1 on the other hand, I mean, the law is clear. The  
2 case Stanson v. Mott is kind of the premier case  
3 in this area. And it sets forth that there's a  
4 distinction that should be drawn between  
5 informational educating of the public versus  
6 advocacy. And there's sort of a time-place-tenor  
7 standard that needs to be applied when you look  
8 at the communications that are taking place while  
9 a measure is pending.

10 And so I guess what I'd say is we have  
11 to be very careful all around as a county and  
12 county agencies. County departments would have  
13 to be careful all around in terms of how they're  
14 using county resources to communicate. Because  
15 while information and information sharing  
16 educating the public is authorized, advocacy is  
17 not.

18 So again, you've got to look closely at  
19 the tenor, the timing, etcetera with respect to  
20 communications to ensure that we don't run afoul  
21 of the legal principle you were just  
22 articulating. So it's fair to say we'll spend a  
23 fair amount of time I believe looking at that  
24 going forward.

25 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: And the

1 sheriff similarly is prohibited?

2 JOHN NIBBELIN: All county departments'  
3 employees are prohibited from using county  
4 resources, government agency resources for  
5 advocacy purposes. That's true.

6 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: So the sheriff  
7 would be prohibited, for instance, from using a  
8 newsletter or using Next Door or using her  
9 letterhead to send out mass communications about  
10 the charter amendment if it was considered to be  
11 campaigning?

12 JOHN NIBBELIN: We'd have to work very  
13 closely with the sheriff and any other county  
14 department or any other county officials  
15 including the board to -- on that same issue.  
16 The same legal standard applies.

17 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: And is that a  
18 civil standard or is that a criminal standard to  
19 use county resources to campaign?

20 JOHN NIBBELIN: It's a criminal  
21 statute.

22 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Thank you.

23 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: All right.  
24 (Indiscernible) other comments at this time?

25 JOHN NIBBELIN: I've actually said a

1 lot, Supervisor Pine, but there was one other  
2 thing I was hoping to add to the mix just for  
3 clarity if I could.

4 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Go ahead.

5 JOHN NIBBELIN: I want to note that as  
6 Supervisor Corzo noted, this is adoption of an  
7 ordinance. This ordinance was actually  
8 introduced at a prior meeting. This is not  
9 adoption of an ordinance to amend the charter,  
10 but those looking at the packet for today's  
11 meeting will note that there's also a resolution  
12 included with this item. There's the ordinance  
13 and then there's a resolution.

14 And the resolution is calling for and  
15 providing for a special election, etcetera. And  
16 I just want to be clear on why we included a  
17 resolution with this and what the point and the  
18 purpose of the resolution is. And we've done  
19 this for a couple of reasons.

20 First, while the election for a charter  
21 amendment under California law very specifically  
22 must be called by an ordinance. The law  
23 also provides that for any special local  
24 election, the board must issue a proclamation or  
25 a resolution calling the election, and that's

1 embedded in the election code.

2 We did include some language in the  
3 ordinance that proclaims an election. But kind  
4 of in the spirit of belt and suspenders and  
5 making sure that we've dotted I's and crossed Ts,  
6 we also prepared this resolution calling the  
7 election.

8 Also, I want to note that a request to  
9 consolidate an election with any other potential  
10 elections occurring on March 4, 2025 must be made  
11 by resolution. So on the off chance that there's  
12 some other thing that's going to go to the ballot  
13 in March of 2025, which I guess we'd know in a  
14 few days, we want to make sure that we're able to  
15 consolidate, and this resolution makes that  
16 request.

17 And I just would note that Los Angeles  
18 County, which included -- which as we've  
19 discussed in a prior meeting, did something very  
20 similar to what we're talking about doing here.  
21 They also included both an ordinance and a  
22 resolution for their charter amendment election  
23 again back in November of 2022. So again, that's  
24 why we have the two items.

25 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: All right.

1 Thank you for that additional information.

2 Supervisor Corzo?

3 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: I just wanted  
4 to, before we go to public comment, make a couple  
5 more clarifications. I want folks to understand  
6 that our sheriff right now is serving during a  
7 six-year term. We are wrapping up year two.  
8 There are four more years left before the voters  
9 would have an opportunity to vote on new  
10 leadership in the sheriff's office without an  
11 intervention like a charter amendment election or  
12 a recall. So I want to make sure folks  
13 understand that so that they can understand what  
14 the urgency is.

15 And I also wanted to make sure people  
16 understand that votes of no confidence have been  
17 taken and statements have been made by every  
18 level of the sheriff's sworn officers. The  
19 deputy sheriffs, the sergeants, the lieutenants,  
20 the captains, that is not normal. Every single  
21 level.

22 And civilian staff, most of which who  
23 are women, all of the complainants, all of the  
24 staff, the civil staff that made allegations that  
25 were ultimately found to be sustained are women.

1 And so what we have in front of us is a situation  
2 where, you know, our first female sheriff has  
3 failed to protect women under -- you know, in the  
4 sheriff's office. And that, you know, is  
5 something that I will not sit by and continue to  
6 watch while doing nothing.

7 So I want to also share that, you know,  
8 we will hear right now public comment, and I  
9 expect it to be challenging. But that is what  
10 public comment is for. And we will be responsive  
11 to it. It's literally our job. So thank you.

12 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you,  
13 Supervisor Corzo. All right. Let's now move to  
14 public comment. Mr. Clerk?

15 SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: Thank you,  
16 Supervisor Pine. We'll take public comments from  
17 chambers first and then we'll hear from Zoom.  
18 We'll just start with Christopher Ulrich followed  
19 by Mark Depaula. And please speak directly into  
20 the mic and you'll have a minute. Christopher  
21 Ulrich? So Christopher is not here or... Okay.  
22 I'm going to -- I'm just going to call on the  
23 speakers so if you hear your name please come up.  
24 Thomas Mazulla?

25 THOMAS MAZZUCCO: Thank you. Mazzucco.

SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: Mazzucco. Please come up.

THOMAS MAZZUCCO: Good morning, members of the board of supervisors, Mr. Callagy, Mr. Nibbelin. We are counsel representing Sheriff Christina Corpus. We've been working with Sheriff Corpus for a little over a week. We are here to ask that this matter be continued. We've sent letters to Mr. Nibbelin your county counsel to give us an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

We're talking about a report that's unsubstantiated. You seem to know more about the report than we do, Supervisor Mueller. But it's anonymous to us. You're right. The sheriff has not presented her side of the story yet probably due to a lack of confidence to potential conflicts of interest. But we are going to have a serious conversation with the sheriff about doing that.

And I hear from the supervisors a sense of urgency to get this done. Urgency to you the members of this board who are attorneys is not a reason to eliminate due process or the sheriff's constitutional rights.

1                   Now, I come to you with a background of  
2 ten years as an assistant DA in San Francisco,  
3 nine years as an assistant United States attorney  
4 in the United States Attorney's Office as a law  
5 enforcement coordinator working with all the  
6 agencies in San Mateo County, also as a police  
7 commissioner for 12 years.

8                   I've been through three changes of  
9 police chiefs. I've hired three. And guess  
10 what. There's never happiness amongst the staff.  
11 Morale is always low. It takes time. And like  
12 my old boss at the U.S. Attorney's Office said  
13 Bob Mueller when he took over the FBI, there's a  
14 third of the people are just not going to like  
15 you, a third that will like you, and a third that  
16 you're going to have to win over. And we need to  
17 give the sheriff that chance.

18                   Law enforcement is a unique, unique  
19 thing. The community. The community. Crime is  
20 down. The stats are down. That's unique. You  
21 cannot usurp the authority of the community.  
22 Crime is down and staffing in the sheriff  
23 department is up.

24                   I want to say one thing. Morale is up.  
25 I can you right now I know the men and women of

1 the sheriff's department are still responding to  
2 calls for service to serve their community no  
3 matter who's in charge. There's a lot of  
4 questions from this board. There's a lot of  
5 uncertainty about the process. I ask that you  
6 continue this matter to protect the sheriff's  
7 rights because it's the right thing to do.

8                   When you did Pledge of Allegiance you  
9 said, "and justice for all". Justice, especially  
10 for you lawyers on this board, we need to give  
11 the sheriff an opportunity to respond. This is  
12 premature for you to usurp the authority of the  
13 voters. I thank you for giving me additional  
14 time.

15                   SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: Thank you.  
16 Christopher Ulrich followed by Mark Depaula. And  
17 as a reminder through the acting chair, you have  
18 one minute.

19                   CHRISTOPHER ULRICH: Thank you. Good  
20 morning. I am colleagues with Tim Mazzucco and  
21 also counsel for Sheriff Christina Corpus. I  
22 echo what he says and request a delay. I know  
23 the allegations are serious, but at this point  
24 they are just allegations.

25                   I understand it was an esteemed

1 investigator. Many of the people she interviewed  
2 by her own admission were complainants. It  
3 doesn't look like -- look to us as though she  
4 really tried to verify or check against their  
5 allegations. Now, I understand we are not in a  
6 court of law and this is a political process. We  
7 are just across the walkway though from the  
8 courthouse. And every day in that courthouse  
9 allegations are made and the person against whom  
10 those allegations are made has an opportunity to  
11 respond.

12 I understand you provided or you  
13 offered that to Ms. Corpus previously. She now  
14 has counsel and we are requesting that this board  
15 delay this vote and give her an opportunity to  
16 fully respond. Thank you for your time.

17 SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: Thank you. Mark  
18 Depaula followed by Monica Berlin.

19 MARK DEPAULA: A board of supervisors  
20 should not be involved in a recall with the  
21 current Sheriff Corpus. Sheriff Corpus was  
22 elected by San Mateo Count voters. Why has a  
23 board of supervisors take such action when the  
24 same board of supervisors had hired Judge Cordell  
25 to investigate District Attorney Wagstaff?

1 District Attorney Wagstaff said he  
2 would not cooperate with Judge Cordell regarding  
3 the Bat Mobile case, which San Mateo County  
4 deputies went to Indiana to harass an innocent  
5 car body man on the behalf of a rich San Mateo  
6 County real estate individual. Why hasn't the  
7 board of supervisors asked for a recall of San  
8 Mateo County District Attorney Wagstaff?

9                   2007 the former sheriff and  
10                  undersheriff were caught in a sex slave house  
11                  with an underage Hispanic girl. This was called  
12                  Operation Dollhouse by the FBI. In 2014 the  
13                  sheriff was re-elected and shortly resigned, and  
14                  the board of supervisors appointed the  
15                  undersheriff to sheriff.

16                   In 2018 the board of supervisors  
17 endorsed the appointment of -- knowing what had  
18 happened in 2007. I have the disk from the FBI,  
19 and I'm sure the board of supervisors would not  
20 want them.

25 MONICA BERLIN: Hello. Good morning.

1 My name is Monica Berlin, and I just wanted to  
2 come down here to speak in favor of Sheriff  
3 Corpus. I live in Half Moon Bay in the Half Moon  
4 Bay community my entire life. Whenever I  
5 encounter deputies on duty in Half Moon Bay, and  
6 I ask them about Christina Corpus because I was  
7 very supportive of her campaign and how great she  
8 is, I always see deputies' faces light up when I  
9 engage them about Christina Corpus.

10 I've never heard anybody complain about  
11 her. So I think she's done amazing things with  
12 the sheriff's office. Like crime is down and  
13 morale of the deputies I encounter is up. And I  
14 just want to say I -- the report is completely  
15 unsubstantiated, and it's inappropriate for you,  
16 Ms. Corzo, with all your distracting jewelry.  
17 It's very distracting with your nose ring and  
18 your earrings, and it's inappropriate.

19 But I think for you all to be attacking  
20 her just shows more about you. And I know you're  
21 all corrupt. And hopefully next year is -- your  
22 time will be up and corruption is your way of  
23 doing business. But with Donald Trump coming  
24 back and the death penalty for pedophiles,  
25 hopefully --

1 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you.

2 MONICA BERLIN: -- we won't have to see  
3 you anymore.

4 SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: Thank you. Heather  
5 Colbert. Okay. Thank you. No additional  
6 speakers from chambers, so Madam Clerk, please  
7 proceed.

8 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you. We are on  
9 Item Number 10 with ten speakers. Alison Madden  
10 followed by Sameena Usman. Alison, please unmute  
11 and begin.

12 ALISON MADDEN: Hello. Good morning.  
13 I think it's shocking the speed and hysteria with  
14 which this board as currently constituted has  
15 been handling this issue. Yes, we've read the  
16 report. It's disrespectful to the voters to take  
17 this action at this time and keep telling us to  
18 read the report.

19 Two of you are terming out and will be  
20 unaccountable to voters for your vote today. I  
21 predict the rest of you will have a challenge  
22 with your re-election. You should wait for the  
23 newly elected supervisors to take their seats  
24 before any action is taken on this issue. That  
25 is the most recent expression of the people's

1 will.

2 I based my vote for my supervisor for  
3 my area on the candidate's specific response to  
4 support for the sheriff in text about this issue  
5 and the campaign responded. It's not surprising  
6 that the fraternization rule is being used  
7 against a woman and woman of minority background.  
8 And I'm not joking. Just like Fani Willis, this  
9 county should eliminate that rule or amend it  
10 going forward for disclosure, or look at every  
11 male and female or even (indiscernible).

12 This sheriff is a reformer. She's the  
13 only one in this county that cares about the  
14 women in incarceration. And specifically, one of  
15 the personnel issues that the rank and file don't  
16 like is she wants overtime to be in the jails,  
17 which is entirely proper. She cares about women,  
18 and she's a reformer. LaDoris Cordell was the  
19 worst pick --

20 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you. You  
21 need to wrap up.

22 ALISON MADDEN: Yeah. A panel of three  
23 like an arbitration would've been proper. And  
24 LaDoris Cordell went to the mat for Judge Persky  
25 in the Brock Turner case. People should look

1 that up. She was the wrong person to hire.

2 Thank you.

3 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you. Sameena  
4 Usman followed by Nancy Goodban. Just a  
5 reminder, please adhere to the one-minute timer.  
6 Sameena, please unmute and begin.

7 SAMEENA USMAN: Hello. My name is  
8 Sameena Usman and I'm speaking on behalf of  
9 Secure Justice. We call for you to -- we're  
10 calling for a special election on March 4th to  
11 vote on the proposed amendment to the charter.

12 The thing is that we need to grant the  
13 authority to remove the sheriff without the  
14 sunset clause because otherwise we're going to  
15 have to do this at the taxpayer expense.  
16 Accountability is the cornerstone of public trust  
17 in our democratic institutions, particularly in  
18 law enforcement.

19 We -- when -- while elected officials  
20 must retain independence, there must be  
21 safeguards to ensure that they act in the best  
22 interest of the community. Calling for a special  
23 election allows for the voters at San Mateo  
24 County to make their voices heard on this  
25 critical issue and ensures ample time for the

1 community education and engagement and empowers  
2 the residents to fully understand the  
3 implications of this charter amendment.

4 This is the opportunity to strengthen  
5 public confidence in our institutions and  
6 reaffirm your commitment to accountability and  
7 justice. I urge you to take this step. Thank  
8 you.

9 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you. Nancy  
10 Goodban followed by Joaquin Jimenez. Nancy,  
11 please unmute and begin.

12 NANCY GOODBAN: Hi. Thank you. My  
13 name is Nancy Goodban. I live in Redwood City.  
14 I'm with Fixin' San Mateo County. Thank you for  
15 what you're doing. I do support it. We are at  
16 such a critical juncture with regard to public  
17 safety in this community as Supervisors Mueller  
18 and Corzo have outlined.

19 The current sheriff is the only in the  
20 department who seems to support -- the current  
21 undersheriff is the only one in the department  
22 who still seems to support the current sheriff,  
23 but she refuses to participate in any solutions.  
24 This provides an opportunity for you to safeguard  
25 against similar problems in the future.

1                   I hope that you will look at creating a  
2 regular ongoing inspector general position to  
3 provide an independent channel where people can  
4 raise concerns and questions and the opportunity  
5 to address problems before they become such a  
6 liability. The inspector general would develop a  
7 communication protocol with the sheriff's office  
8 to be able to make policy and practice  
9 recommendations to your board and to the sheriff.

10                  I also hope that you will ask  
11 (Indiscernible) to weigh in, in their role as  
12 advisory to your board. It's time to give them  
13 duties, powers -- thank you for all that you do.

14                  SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you, Nancy.

15 Joaquin Jimenez followed by Ron Snow. Joaquin,  
16 please unmute and begin.

17                  JOAQUIN JIMENEZ: Good morning again.  
18 My name is Joaquin Jimenez. I am the mayor for  
19 the city of Half Moon Bay, but I'm speaking as a  
20 concerned citizen. I support Sheriff Christina  
21 Corpus 100 percent. And no, I do not agree to  
22 give you my vote, to give you my permission to  
23 ask her to resign, to remove her from her  
24 position.

25                  This is a witch hunt. You -- if

1 Christina Corpus would've been a man, this would  
2 not be happening. She has changed our community.  
3 She has helped out community. The crime in the  
4 coast has dropped significantly. If some of you  
5 were to be investigated about special events,  
6 special parties, many of you would have to be  
7 removed. And again, I do not give you my  
8 permission. I do not give you my vote for you to  
9 remove Sheriff Christina Corpus. I support her  
10 100 percent. Thank you.

11 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you. Six  
12 hands. Ron Snow followed by Cindy. Ron, please  
13 unmute and begin.

14 RON SNOW: Yes, supervisors. Thanks --  
15 thank you for listening. I do think that there's  
16 been a lack of transparency. I searched through  
17 the county notes on this thing and there's no  
18 counter-arguments that are posted. George Galen  
19 I think was the person who did a very good  
20 analysis of the judge's report and points out so  
21 many different flaws and opinionated statements  
22 that I think it's important for that report to be  
23 posted as well as some of these other areas.

24 To only allow one minute is an example  
25 of why the public isn't being allowed to have a

1 counter-measure. The other one is I think this  
2 has just gone too far too fast. I got notified a  
3 week or so ago of a meeting that was supposed to  
4 happen in two hours so there wasn't even -- a  
5 meeting by Mueller that said that there was  
6 ongoing to be more information disclosed. No  
7 time to react to that. No time to schedule for  
8 that. So I hope that you slow this down, allow  
9 the new board of supervisors to vote on this, and  
10 make this happen later in the year. Thank you.

11 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you. Cindy  
12 followed by James C. Johnson. Sydney -- Cindy,  
13 please unmute and begin.

14 CINDY MCREYNOLDS: Hi. My name is  
15 Cindy McReynolds, and thank you for this  
16 opportunity to talk. And I would like to know --  
17 I've heard the supervisors that they all have  
18 their own opinion, which appears to be in  
19 contrast to what the constituents of San Mateo  
20 County have.

21 I have not heard anybody that is  
22 representing the people, and I thought this board  
23 was supposed to represent the people of San Mateo  
24 county. Yet we have no complaints. We have no  
25 recall, and we're happy with the sheriff. We

1       were unhappy with the prior sheriff and the prior  
2       actions of the board of supervisors. And two of  
3       them are still on the board that didn't do  
4       anything about prior indiscretions.

5                   Another thing I would like to bring up  
6       is that this is tyranny that for you to take our  
7       constitutional votes and then not give us the  
8       opportunity to recall anybody. I don't know if  
9       you're going to put somebody in or we vote for a  
10      new sheriff. But have you -- I just want to know  
11      if you've registered with the secretary of state  
12      and are following the election code in regards to  
13      your recall and your campaign. Thank you.

14                   SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you, Cindy.  
15      James C. Johnson followed by Andrea Paul. James,  
16      please unmute and begin.

17                   JAMES C. JOHNSON: James C. Johnson  
18      here, Redwood City. I've been with Redwood City  
19      for 40 years. I just want to reiterate to the  
20      board of supervisors you guys do not have the  
21      authority to remove the sheriff. You guys can  
22      make suggestions and policies and use the code in  
23      San Mateo County as a Rubix Cube to justify your  
24      fraudulent agenda.

25                   But you do not have the authority to

1 trump the votes of San Mateo County. Sixty  
2 percent of the people voted for Christina. Crime  
3 rate is down. I have also spoken to over dozens  
4 of sheriff's officers. I've also spoken to Mike  
5 who's sitting on the left-hand side there, you  
6 know, and saying Carlos. And this is a witch  
7 hunt. This is a witch hunt. Mike's the devil  
8 behind the curtain that's justifying this agenda,  
9 and he's promoting and pushing the board of  
10 supervisors to go along and remove the vote.

11 You have five people sitting there, and  
12 you guys want to remove 30,000, 40,000 votes that  
13 voted for Christina Corpus with no justification  
14 whatsoever. And if in fact you guys follow the  
15 code of California to remove an elected official  
16 like they did the governor of California a couple  
17 of times, then I could say that that could be  
18 justifiable.

19 But you guys have no probable cause.  
20 Christina Corpus hasn't done anything.  
21 Everything in the allegations in the report, 102  
22 documents, are full of hyperboles and homonyms --

23 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Johnson.

25 JAMES C. JOHNSON: -- to justify your

1 guys' agenda and --

2 SHERRY GOLESTAN: That's your time.

3 JAMES C. JOHNSON: -- and you guys are  
4 creating hysteria amongst the community that is  
5 unjustifiable. And you guys are going to face  
6 legal action with an injunction in federal court  
7 if you guys continue to pursue with this  
8 fraudulent --

9 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Madam Clerk,  
10 (indiscernible).

11 JAMES C. JOHNSON: -- agenda against  
12 the sheriff.

13 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you.

14 JAMES C. JOHNSON: You guys are --

15 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Mr. Johnson --

16 JAMES C. JOHNSON: -- are pathetic.  
17 You guys are pathetic.

18 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Mr. Johnson, the  
19 chair has asked you to wrap up.

20 JAMES C. JOHNSON: You guys both --

21 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Please mute him.

22 JAMES C. JOHNSON: You guys will be  
23 removed from office in the next election term.

24 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: We have to wrap  
25 up.

1 JAMES C. JOHNSON: Mark my words.

2 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Okay. And we will  
3 now go to Andrea Hall. We also had a hand up for  
4 Ann. Ann, your hand is now lowered. I just  
5 wanted to mention that in case you meant to  
6 speak. Andrea, please unmute and begin.

7 ANDREA HALL: Good morning. My name is  
8 Andrea Hall. And as you may know, I was recently  
9 elected to the Broadmoor Police Commission. I'm  
10 here to speak in favor of the resolution but  
11 against the sunset clause. Law enforcement in  
12 unincorporated San Mateo County clearly needs  
13 continued oversight. The Cordell report makes  
14 that clear.

15 And just yesterday the Broadmoor Police  
16 District hired an officer who had a DUI for  
17 driving a government-owned vehicle with a blood  
18 alcohol level of 0.269. I know that creating  
19 oversight for law enforcement in San Mateo County  
20 will take time, and it requires the trust of the  
21 community but it is essential. And so I would  
22 ask you to pass this resolution today. Thank you  
23 very much. I'd like to cede the remainder of my  
24 time.

25 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you, Andrea.

1 Dan Stegink followed by Pat Willard. Dan, please  
2 unmute and begin.

3 DAN STEGINK: Thank you, supervisors.

4 It's quite clear now that you don't have the  
5 legal purview to remove the sheriff just because  
6 you want to. It's not a court of law. It's a  
7 kangaroo court.

8 It's not true that only the guilty get  
9 legal counsel. An exercise of one's  
10 constitutional rights is not probable cause.  
11 Changing federal policy largely requires a  
12 federal vote. Changing state policy largely  
13 requires a state vote. As a rescue diver, I've  
14 worked with tens of federal, state, and local law  
15 enforcement agencies recovering hundreds of  
16 bodies in California and across the U.S.

17 And as a California Democratic party  
18 member, I've written more justice reform  
19 resolutions than anyone else in the county  
20 combined. Cops are bred for war. Tapia, Corpus,  
21 Callagy, they're all cops. If you put them in a  
22 room, they'd get into a fist fight before they  
23 would decide where to go buy sandwiches. You  
24 need to be the adults in the room. Don't recall  
25 Sheriff Corpus. Recall Ray Mueller. Thank you

1 very much.

2 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you, Dan. Pat  
3 Willard followed by Ann. Pat, please unmute and  
4 begin.

5 PAT WILLARD: Thank you. I want to  
6 raise a couple of things from Los Angeles County  
7 Chapter 3.79.030. A sheriff's civilian oversight  
8 commission investigates through the office of  
9 inspector general to analyze solicit input and  
10 investigate sheriff-related issues or complaints  
11 affecting the community.

12 Chapter 6.44.190 Office of the  
13 Inspector General as part of the board of  
14 supervisors' duty to supervise the official  
15 conduct of the sheriff under California state  
16 government code. These things must be defined in  
17 that same fashion in San Mateo County.

18 A couple of days ago or a couple of  
19 weeks ago I listened to an ICAC meeting where  
20 each of the members on that board continued to  
21 say that they don't know what responsibilities  
22 they have. The Chapter 7.3.79 of the Civilian  
23 Staff Oversight Commission in LA County specifies  
24 who, what, when, and where and how their  
25 responsibilities are in plain English. Those

1 same two --

2 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you. You  
3 need to wrap up.

4 PAT WILLARD: -- charters should be  
5 implemented in San Mateo County as soon as  
6 possible. Thank you.

7 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you, Pat. And  
8 our last speaker Ann. Please unmute and begin.

9 ANN: Thank you very much. I am  
10 neither in favor of or against the current  
11 sheriff. I'm just concerned about preserving  
12 election integrity. Why not have a recall  
13 election of a public official rather than going  
14 through this type of process? I'm concerned  
15 about setting a precedent for the future and  
16 giving the board exclusive power over an elected  
17 position.

18 On the surface, the actions seem to be  
19 more of a power grab. Why not let the public  
20 recall the sheriff in an election in order to  
21 preserve election integrity and really supporting  
22 the will of the people? What you're doing only  
23 adds to people's concern about government in  
24 general, and there's already a problem with the  
25 perception of the public. So I just would ask

1 that you please consider a recall rather than the  
2 actions you're planning today. Thank you.

3 SHERRY GOLESTAN: Thank you, Ann. No  
4 further comments, acting chair.

5 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: All right.  
6 Thank you, everyone, for your comments today.  
7 Supervisor Mueller.

8 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Yeah. I think  
9 it's really interesting the backdrop. It's  
10 funny. I've served on the city council for ten  
11 years where you hire your police chief, and I  
12 think that's the method in the majority of cities  
13 in San Mateo County, they hire their police  
14 chief. And if they got a human resources report  
15 like this, pretty sure most city councils would  
16 fire that police chief.

17 So we have an elected sheriff. That's  
18 something that exists historically within the  
19 state. So we go through a process that's  
20 incumbent to be gone through to remove that  
21 sheriff different than a police chief in a city.  
22 I want people to remember that process of what  
23 takes place in the city because I think that's  
24 important for those who are reacting to it this  
25 way. Every city in San Mateo County has a city

1       council that oversees how that department is  
2       managed.

3                   Secondarily, I want to respond to the  
4       -- with that being the case, we're not doing that  
5       here. The -- let me back up. We're not doing  
6       that here. The board is respecting the elected  
7       position of the sheriff. And so I want to speak  
8       to what the attorneys brought up with respect to  
9       due process.

10                  Mr. Nibbelin, if this charter amendment  
11       was passed by the voters, if they looked at this  
12       and they decided to give the board the power with  
13       a sunset clause to go ahead and apply this  
14       amendment to the charter amendment, would we  
15       still be held to due process in applying this  
16       charter amendment provision? Could it be  
17       challenged in court if we applied this charter  
18       amendment process inappropriately?

19                  JOHN NIBBELIN: It could be challenged  
20       in court if we applied it inappropriately. The  
21       charter amendment, as I noted earlier, includes a  
22       process, provision for written notice and  
23       opportunity to be heard prior to the board acting  
24       on the -- on a removal if indeed this were  
25       passed.

1 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: And the second  
2 thing I wanted to respond to comments from  
3 counsel, because I do take -- I do listen to your  
4 comments. They're asking for a continuance, but  
5 the question I have for you is -- because you  
6 want to balance that. And if we continue it --  
7 if we were to continue it, that would push us to  
8 November for the election. Is that right?

9                   JOHN NIBBELIN: It would. To be clear,  
10                  in order to make the March election date, the  
11                  board has to adopt the ordinance prior to  
12                  December 6, 2024, which is the election minus 88-  
13                  days' deadline.

14 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: But we could  
15 -- if it was passed today, we could take it off.  
16 We could at a later date decide -- the board  
17 could meet and decide, well, we're going to go  
18 ahead and take the charter amendment off.

19                   JOHN NIBBELIN: The board would have  
20 actually until December 11th to take the matter  
21 off to be clear, which is E minus -- election  
22 minus 83 days. These are dates and deadlines  
23 that are set forth in the election code.

24 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: So if Sheriff  
25 Corpus wanted to come to our next meeting on

1 December 10th and make her case, why we could  
2 take this off while represented by counsel and  
3 testify to us and present whatever evidence she  
4 wanted to, the board could take it under  
5 advisement at that time whether or not they  
6 wanted to go ahead and pull the charter amendment  
7 off the election. Isn't that correct?

8 JOHN NIBBELIN: I think that's correct.  
9 There's some things we'd have to do to make sure  
10 the agenda notice that is a possibility. But  
11 yes.

12 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Okay. Well,  
13 so again, I want to, through the chair, extend  
14 the invitation to Sheriff Corpus to come to our  
15 next meeting and talk to us. Because we can take  
16 this off, take this item off if it's passed  
17 today.

18 MAN 1: (Indiscernible).

19 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: No, that's not  
20 proper at this time.

21 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: So let's go --  
22 with that, I'm -- I don't have any further  
23 comments.

24 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Supervisor  
25 Corzo?

1 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: Thank you,  
2 Supervisor Pine. So I want to share that our  
3 board is advised. We have two lawyers on our  
4 board. We have a team of lawyers who knows the  
5 law, respects it, follows it, understands it.  
6 And we have been presented with the options that  
7 our board has for moving forward. That is what  
8 has led us to this place.

9 That vote that we're going to take is  
10 one that this board has carefully considered and  
11 we'll shortly find out what that is. But at the  
12 core of this issue is the reality that our  
13 current sheriff does not understand, follow, or  
14 respect not just county policy, but basic ethics  
15 and -- around conflict of -- conflicts of  
16 interest and much more. And for anyone who has  
17 not taken a chance to review the report, please  
18 do so. You know, to state that there is not  
19 evidence in this report is just factually  
20 incorrect.

21 And I want to share something on more  
22 of a personal level because I was a supporter of  
23 the sheriff. And it wasn't until I really  
24 understood what the allegations were, who made  
25 them, how they were sustained that I chose to

1 pull back that support. And you know, there were  
2 signs. And even, you know, as recently as this  
3 summer, I want to share that I had a conversation  
4 with the sheriff. And in that conversation, the  
5 sheriff admitted to me that Victor Aellne, who is  
6 really at the core of the allegations in this  
7 report, had lied to me about a statement that she  
8 had allegedly made.

9 And her admitting that to me is part of  
10 my decision making here because it is very clear  
11 to me that she is incapable of holding Victor  
12 Aellne accountable or putting anyone else's  
13 interests before his and ultimately hers. And  
14 that to me is a mentality that is completely  
15 unbefitting of a leader who needs to make sound  
16 decisions in the sheriff's office who is  
17 ultimately responsible for public safety in our  
18 entire county.

19 Again, votes of no confidence by every  
20 level of the sheriff's office. The day that we  
21 released this report, for anyone who's kind of  
22 new to the situation, the sheriff arrested the  
23 union president of the Deputy Sheriff's  
24 Association, who was a former long supporter of  
25 hers. And shortly thereafter, we saw her new

1 assistant sheriff and a captain quit because of  
2 their involvement in that arrest.

3 There are investigations still  
4 happening right now around all of these matters.  
5 And those will ultimately, you know, be presented  
6 to the community as well. But I just -- I want  
7 people to understand that these are not decisions  
8 that we have come to lightly. And we have to do  
9 what's right for this community even when it's  
10 hard, even when we have members of the public  
11 come and directly attack us and say whatever they  
12 want to say because it's their right. That's  
13 their First Amendment right, and we respect those  
14 rights here.

15 I want to urge my colleagues here to  
16 support the second reading of this ordinance and  
17 the resolution before us because there are people  
18 who feel silenced right now that are county  
19 employees. And I have great concern for members  
20 of the public who are being impacted by this who  
21 do not know how to stand up for themselves or are  
22 scared to speak up.

23 My biggest fear if we see this level of  
24 dysfunction in our sheriff's office, what does  
25 that mean for your everyday resident? What does

1 that mean for people walking down the street and  
2 for their rights? We already have a claim  
3 against the county for the arrest of the union  
4 president. And all of that while the public  
5 knows that there -- you know, there was an  
6 investigation. There's -- the report has been  
7 released.

8 We saw our sheriff on November 13th  
9 come into these chambers and not only completely  
10 deny everything in the report, but she tried to  
11 promote Victor Aellne to a position he's not  
12 qualified for right in these chambers. If those  
13 are not political theatrics, I don't know what  
14 is.

15 We are happy to hear from the sheriff,  
16 but I want people to know that I have zero  
17 confidence in anything coming out of her mouth  
18 being truthful. And saying that about a law  
19 enforcement officer is really concerning. And  
20 our county is doing everything we can to apply  
21 the same level of accountability for everyone.

22 But ultimately, again, I just want to  
23 come back to -- I want to urge our board to pass  
24 this second reading and this resolution. It's  
25 the right thing to do. We cannot wait for an

1       emergency to happen in our community and the  
2       dysfunction that the sheriff's office to make  
3       that even worse. We have to act now. We have to  
4       be proactive.

5               And let me just say for the people  
6       working at the sheriff's office, this is far too  
7       late already. They have already been harmed over  
8       time. And many of those complainants are women,  
9       are women of color, and we need to be their  
10      voice, and we need to protect them, and we need  
11      to do what is right for our community. So with  
12      that, I -- unless anyone wants to share  
13      additional comments, I motion to approve -- oh,  
14      sorry. Go ahead, Supervisor --

15               SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: We do have  
16      Supervisor Slocum has --

17               SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: President  
18      Slocum?

19               SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: -- raised his  
20      hand.

21               SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Thank you,  
22      Mr. Pine. I'm just curious through the chair and  
23      directed toward county attorney. Could we --  
24      does it make any sense to formally invite the  
25      sheriff to join us on December 10th with her

1 counsel, excuse me, to offer whatever testimony  
2 she would like in response to this matter? And  
3 the reason for that is I understand that we would  
4 have until December 11th to remove the proposed  
5 ballot measure.

6 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: I would --  
7 Supervisor Slocum, thank you. That was also what  
8 I had brought forward, and I'd like to second  
9 that. But I'd like to add one caveat. Sworn  
10 testimony. And I anticipate that in making that  
11 request for the 10th to provide sworn testimony  
12 the response we may get will be, well, there's  
13 certain things we don't have yet or -- but there  
14 are 14 different allegations in that  
15 investigation.

16 And I would welcome sworn testimony on  
17 any of those 14 allegations. Some of those  
18 having to do with her -- specifically with her  
19 relationship with Mr. Aellne, some having to do  
20 with text messages. These are items that frankly  
21 her to -- her coming in and just providing sworn  
22 testimony regarding should be -- just come tell  
23 us what happened.

24 There's allegations here in the  
25 complaint. Tell us in your own words what

1       happened under sworn testimony before us on the  
2       10th before we decide to move forward. So I  
3       don't know if she'll want to provide testimony  
4       with respect to all 14 allegations, but I'd like  
5       to know which ones she is prepared to provide to  
6       us on December 10th.

7                    SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: And Mr.  
8       Counsel, do we -- would there have to be an  
9       amended motion to cover what the supervisor just  
10      went through?

11                  JOHN NIBBELIN: I think that the  
12      board's got the discretion either through a  
13      motion or an amended motion to invite the sheriff  
14      under whatever terms the board cares to, whether  
15      it's sworn, non-sworn testimony. That's totally  
16      within the board's discretion.

17                  And you know, however the board wants  
18      to sort of frame the invitation, I think it's  
19      within their discretion. It could be a motion to  
20      issue that invitation. It could be direction to  
21      have that invitation transmitted. You know,  
22      there are a number of ways that that could be  
23      done. And so yes, absolutely, that would be  
24      within the board's discretion again whether it's  
25      sworn or non-sworn testimony. You know, it's --

1 again, the board's discretion.

2                   Would note that, again, you know, the  
3 -- in the -- you know, in -- additionally, I mean  
4 the board is aware and the sheriff's aware that  
5 this office, the Office of the County Attorney,  
6 does represent the sheriff's office. There are  
7 processes for the sheriff to request separate  
8 counsel when separate -- when the sheriff  
9 believes that there's a conflict that would  
10 prevent our office from representing both the  
11 board and the sheriff.

12                   And if the sheriff wanted to show up  
13 with different representation, that's up to --  
14 that would of course be up to the sheriff. But  
15 recognize again that the Office of the County  
16 Attorney in the ordinary course represents the  
17 sheriff unless separate counsel's been appointed,  
18 and there's a process dictated in the government  
19 code for doing that. So I just wanted to flag  
20 that issue as well.

21                   SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: I --

22                   SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Well -- go  
23 ahead.

24                   SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: I'm sorry,  
25 Warren. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

1 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: No, go  
2 ahead. I was just prepared to make a motion to  
3 have the subcommittee -- I guess it would be a  
4 subcommittee, invite the sheriff to come and  
5 provide sworn testimony to whatever allegations  
6 she would like to speak to. And she's welcome to  
7 bring her attorney -- attorneys.

14 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: I just --

15 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: I think it's two  
16 separate motions.

17 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Yeah. I  
18 wanted to bifurcate it. One is the invitation  
19 and two is the ballot -- proposed ballot measure.

20 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: So we could  
21 just take care of the second one first and then  
22 go back to yours. So I'll second Supervisor  
23 Slocum's motion.

24 JOHN NIBBELIN: Okay. Just to be clear  
25 for the record, the motion is that an invitation

1 -- that the subcommittee -- and I want to be  
2 clear who is the subcommittee that we're  
3 referring at that point, Supervisor Slocum?

4 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: I think it  
5 would be Supervisor Mueller and Supervisor Corzo.

6 JOHN NIBBELIN: Thank you.

7 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: May I make one  
8 amendment to your motion, Supervisor Slocum?  
9 Sworn testimony and then questions and answers  
10 with the board so there's dialogue within the  
11 invitation.

12 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Sure.  
13 That's acceptable.

14 JOHN NIBBELIN: And again, the -- I  
15 want to note just as a matter of record that the  
16 board of supervisors has not authorized separate  
17 counsel for the sheriff. The sheriff does have  
18 -- as has been noted, there are individuals here  
19 today who have identified themselves as counsel  
20 for the sheriff.

21 But the board of supervisors have not  
22 itself appointed separate counsel or agreed to  
23 appoint separate counsel for the sheriff. But if  
24 the -- again, the invitation is the sheriff can  
25 bring whom she wants as representation. I want

1 that clear as well.

2 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: It is, but I  
3 want to clarify for the public what you mean by  
4 that. The board has not authorized -- or I guess  
5 you haven't reached the conclusion to ask us to  
6 pay for separate counsel. She's -- and that's  
7 what the term "authorized" means. She's welcome  
8 to hire whomever she wants to be her counsel.  
9 The board's not prohibiting that. And it appears  
10 that there is counsel here today representing  
11 her.

12 JOHN NIBBELIN: That's what I'm trying  
13 to make clear.

14 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Okay.

15 JOHN NIBBELIN: Again, there's a  
16 process in the government code for the county to  
17 fund separate counsel. That has not yet  
18 occurred.

19 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Okay.

20 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: Can I just  
21 add a clarification on that note? The board has  
22 not made a decision on that because there hasn't  
23 been a clearly defined specific issue that has  
24 been articulated in a request. It can't just be  
25 a general broad request for anything. It has to

1 be about a specific issue.

2 JOHN NIBBELIN: That's our reading of  
3 the law. That's true, yes. But that -- but  
4 again, I think I have the motion then. It's an  
5 -- the subcommittee would issue invitation to the  
6 sheriff to provide sworn testimony before the  
7 board meeting -- before the board at its meeting  
8 of December 10th with representation of her  
9 choice if she chooses to bring representation  
10 with a provision that it would be a question-and-  
11 answer component to that as well.

12 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Okay. I'll  
13 second that motion.

14 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: That's a motion  
15 made by Supervisor Slocum and seconded by  
16 Supervisor Mueller.

17 SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: I'll take the roll  
18 call. Supervisor Pine?

19 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Yes.

20 SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: Thank you.  
21 Supervisor Corzo?

22 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: I want to  
23 share that, before I cast my vote, I'm again  
24 extremely concerned that, even under oath, our  
25 sheriff will use this as a platform to continue

1 to lie. So I'm going to abstain on this one.

2 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you.

3 Supervisor Mueller?

4 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Yes.

5 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Supervisor  
6 Slocum?

7 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Yes.

8 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you.

9 Motion passes with Supervisor Corzo abstaining.  
10 All right. We should move back to the matter at  
11 hand. Supervisor Corzo --

12 SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: Did Supervisor Pine  
13 vote?

14 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Yes, I did.

15 SUKHAMANI PUERWAL: Okay. I'm sorry,  
16 Supervisor Pine.

17 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Did you have a  
18 motion?

19 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: Yes. I move  
20 to pass the second reading of the proposed  
21 ordinance and the resolution before us.

22 JOHN NIBBELIN: So the motion, again,  
23 to adopt the ordinance and --

24 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: Adopt the  
25 ordinance and approve the resolution.

1 JOHN NIBBELIN: Thank you.  
2 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: Thank you.  
3 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: I'll second  
4 it.  
5 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Sure.  
6 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: I'll take the roll  
7 call. Supervisor Pine?  
8 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Yes.  
9 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: Thank you.  
10 Supervisor Corzo?  
11 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: Yes.  
12 SUPERVISOR NOELIA CORZO: Supervisor Mueller?  
13 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: Yes.  
14 SUPERVISOR RAY MUELLER: And Supervisor  
15 Slocum?  
16 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Yes.  
17 SUPERVISOR WARREN SLOCUM: Thank you. Motion  
18 passes with Supervisor Canepa being absent.  
19 SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE: All right. That  
20 concludes this item. Thank you, everyone.  
21 (End of requested portion)

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25

1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N  
2

3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certify that the  
4 foregoing transcript is a true and accurate  
5 record of the proceedings.

6 Date: February 24, 2025  
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12 <%12151,Signature%>  
13 Sonya Ledanski Hyde  
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**[0.269. - ahead]**

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